2. Discovery of ancient Graves near the river Teith.—Communicated by Henry Home Drummond, Esq. of Blair-Drummond.

In making an approach to the house of Blair-Drummond, in autumn 1824, a number of graves were discovered on the edge of an extensive flat, overhanging a lower flat field, near the river Teith. Both of these fields are formed of water-worn gravel; and it was in this gravel that the graves were made. They were very near the surface of the earth, and formed of rude flag stones, such as are usually found in what is called the crop of a quarry. Some of the graves were nearly square, some oblong, and lying in various directions, and none of them were large enough to hold a full-grown human body laid at length. In some, rude urns were found of half-baked clay; a drawing of one of the most perfect of which (See plate 5, fig. 2) accompanies this notice. This urn, when found, was lying on its side with the defective part uppermost, and contained nothing but gravel. The dimensions of the urn, as figured in the plate, are as follows:—Circumference of the urn at top, 18½ inches; do. at middle, 19 inches; do. half an inch from the bottom, 11½ inches; height, measured outside, 6 inches. In other graves, fragments of urns of a larger size were found, and near them the remains of burnt bones in small portions, with a little blackish earth, apparently what may have been produced by the decay of some part of a human body. Many good bones were found, which had no appearance of ever having been exposed to the action of fire, as well in the graves in which there were burnt remains as in those in which there were none; and in one place some of these unburnt bones appeared lying together, as if the loose fragments of a skeleton had been collected, the bones of the legs and arms lying all together. From the dryness of the grave, some of them were very perfect, and one under-jaw in particular retained all the teeth undecayed in their natural position. The longest of the oblong graves was about 3 feet 6 inches in length, and 1 foot 6 inches in breadth, while the dimensions of the smallest of the square graves did not exceed 18 inches every way within the flag stones. It may be observed that there is no quarry near the place where the graves were found; and from the appearance of the stones it is likely that they were brought from the opposite side of the river, a work of some labour and difficulty when wheel carriages were unknown, as the quarry is a quarter of a mile distant, and the river only passable in very dry weather in summer.

3. Account of a large Tumulus or Barrow, near the west coast of the peninsula of Cantyre.—Communicated by A. Seton, Esq.

This tumulus is situated on the west coast, about a quarter of a mile south-east from Mahareenish bay. It occurs upon the estate of Mr McNeil of Uggadhie, adjoining to the road leading from Campbeltown to Ballanchoyle inn. It appears to have been raised upon a substratum of sand, a few feet in height, and about 100 yards wide, which had either been formed by nature, or thrown up artificially. The circumference of the tumulus itself was about half as much as the mound upon which it reposed, and it was 12 or 15 feet high. Previous to the tumulus being opened, information was given of some large stones which were said to have formerly stood on the north of it. The basis of the tumulus itself was also found to be sand, upon which was raised a tomb, covered by a cairn 8 feet in height, and an outer cincture amounting to near 200 cart loads of sand, earth, and turf.

In the cairn, 5 or 6 feet from the top, were found many bones, and the teeth of horses and oxen, in a state of decay. There was also discovered a piece of red Lancashire or Westmoreland flint or hoesites, were flat on the sides, apparently by having been rubbed upon some other substance.

At the bottom of the cairn, the workmen struck upon a white stone of great magnitude, lying north-east and south-west, and being in a direct line with the stones which were said to have once stood outside at the north of the tumulus. This tomb-stone was fourteen inches thick at the centre, and ten or twelve inches at the edge; it was full five feet long, by four feet broad, and bore no marks of tools upon it. It had stood upon four other stones, viz. two side ones and two end ones. The side ones, which were placed on edge, were of great magnitude, being near a yard in depth. All these, except the eastward side stone, had sunk much from their original perpendicular position. The northward end stone had fallen inward, flat down. There was no stone flooring, but loose sand only, which formed the bottom of this sepulchral coffin. The interior was found to contain only some bones of the lower limbs and arms of an adult. There were no skull nor vertebrae to be seen. Along with the bones, we discovered a small portion of a substance like the leaves of a plant, blackish or dark grey, which crumbled to dust upon being handled. A great part of the stones were supposed to have been brought from the shore, as well as from the bed of the adjoining small river, Mahareenish, which runs into the bay of the same name. It may be mentioned, that there is a tradition of battles having been fought on the plain of Mahareenish. Many fragments of bone have been found near the surface of the ground. A mile or two westward, near the shore, other tumuli are to be seen, which are of smaller dimensions; and two miles east, on Arras Moss, was found a stone hatchet or battle-axe.